



Abbeville Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report 2012-2013



Chairman Keaton presenting Susie New with the 10 year service pin

Susie New Receives 10 Year Pin

Stan Keaton, Chairman of the Abbeville Conservation District recognized Susie New at the December meeting for her 10 years of dedicated service as a commissioner.

Commissioner New has been with the district since 2000, beginning her involvement as an associate commissioner. In 2001 she was appointed by the district board to serve as a commissioner. In 2011 Susie was nominated by the board to fill the vacancy of Vice Chairman.

As a lifelong resident and landowner of Abbeville County, Susie feels it is important to encourage and educate others and especially our counties youth on how to conserve and use our natural resources. As she has said many times before giving her time towards this effort is only a small price to pay for the overall gain.

H.O. Mullinax Scholarships

The Abbeville Conservation District proudly presented three H.O. Mullinax scholarships July 17, during a luncheon at Talk of the Town restaurant in Abbeville.

The recipients were Ean Guy, Celina Bonds and Heather Timmerman. Ean and Celina both graduated from Abbeville High School and Heather graduated from Dixie High School.

Ean will be attending Piedmont Tech and pursuing a career in Agriculture Education with the intention of receiving a masters in wildlife biology from Clemson. Ean has been a FFA member and held the office of Sentinel during his senior year. He has done mission work helping build houses in Kentucky for the underprivileged. Ean is the son of Sharon Norryce and Ed Guy.

Celina is the daughter of Consuela Seigler and Joseph Bond. Celina will be attending Piedmont Tech and her course of study will be horticulture. Celina was ranked 38/124 in her class. She was a member of the Beta Club and FFA Chapter. Fred Raines, Advisor to the FFA Chapter described her as a valuable and highly regarded member serving as Treasurer and a member of the FFA Dairy Milk Quality Judging team that placed first in state competition and moved on to a silver honor nationally.

Heather Timmerman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Timmerman will be attending Piedmont Tech and her course of study will be Diversified Agriculture. Heather was ranked 29/67 in her class. She was a Varsity softball player, Clogger with Abbeville Cloggers, a Dixie FFA member holding the offices of president and secretary and served as student advisor her senior year. In 2011 she was awarded Bronze winner in the National Agriscience Fair. She also assists with the Angel Tree Christmas Wish Project. She enjoys entertaining seniors weekly at the local nursing home by clogging and takes wood to an elderly person in the area.

The Abbeville Conservation District scholarships are awarded in memory of H.O. Mullinax who served many years as a commissioner and a great supporter of the Abbeville Conservation District and its practices. If you would like information about this scholarship program or would like to be a contributor, contact the Conservation District.

Bridgett.barber@sc.usda.gov or 864-459-5419x3



*Ean Guy, Celina Bond, Heather Timmerman
and Chairman Stan Keaton*



Field Office Accomplishments

Cost Share Program

Federal cost share programs available in Abbeville County to assist landowners with their natural resources conservation needs.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil and water resources as well as other natural resource concerns.

Please contact Abbeville Conservation District for more information, including eligibility requirements.

864-459-5419 ext. 3

Abbeville Field Office Accomplishments FY 2013

The Abbeville Conservation District in conjunction with NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) provided planning and follow-up assistance **57** active cost-share contracts that will provide over a million dollars in federal funds to local landowners for applying cost share practices that provide environmental benefits to Abbeville County, as well as neighboring counties. These contracts will be used on **9819** acres.

The Abbeville Field Office Provided

- ◆ Assistance to over **696** individuals
- ◆ Planned conservation systems on **2729** acres
- ◆ Conservation systems applied on **3373** acres
- ◆ Applied practices to improve over **1305** acres of pasture
- ◆ Applied practices to improve **1742** acres of woodland
- ◆ Improved wildlife habitat on **386** acres
- ◆ Improved water quality on **1553** acres
- ◆ Forage & Biomass Planting applied on **25** acres
- ◆ Pest management applied on **709** acres
- ◆ Improved Timber stands on **2,212** acres
- ◆ Stabilized **27** acres of critically eroding areas
- ◆ **450** acres planted with No-Till Drills
- ◆ Site Prep/Tree Planting **154** acres
- ◆ Prescribed Burning **2997** acres
- ◆ Stabilization of logging roads/decks **22** acres

Through various conservation plans technical assistance was provided to cattle operations resulting in the installation of **49,583** feet of fence-line, **17,411** feet of pipeline, **7** wells, and **21** water tanks that will provide increased productivity for the farmers and cleaner water and environmental benefits for the public in Abbeville County.

The total monetary impacts of soil & water programs in Abbeville County equals \$3,526,000.00

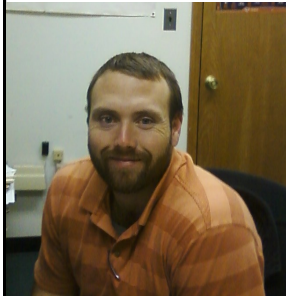
Little-known about program has big impact

HUNDREDS of thousands of farmers and other landowners use plants that were evaluated and selected by the Soil Conservation Service's Plant Materials Program. Yet, they may not know much about this program. When SCS started applying conservation on farms in the first demonstration projects, they needed plants and seeds to stabilize gullies, stream banks and terrace outlets.

Also, they were seeding eroding cropland to pasture, planting trees, seeding rangeland and establishing wildlife habitat.

There were few commercial sources of these plants, so the Civilian Conservation Corps and other workers collected plants and seeds and increased them in demonstration project nurseries. This nursery work evolved in a very systematic method of evaluating and selecting plants for conservation uses and then releasing them to commercial nurseries. In the early 1950s, SCS stopped operating production nurseries and converted some to Plant Materials Centers, where plants are still evaluated today. SCS and the soil conservation movement are largely responsible for creating the supply and demand for conservation plants.

Abbeville Field Office Welcomes Soil Conservation Technician



Matthew Brown joined the Abbeville Field office in February 2013 as a Soil Conservation Technician. He will provide technical assistance to landowners in planning and applying soil and water conservation practices.

Matt was previously employed with SC DHEC as an Inspector III where he performed an array of duties from soil testing to designing new onsite wastewater systems and also administering the rabies program.

Matt is from the Starr/Iva area and graduated from Crescent High School. In 2005 he received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Clemson University in Wildlife Fisheries Biology and in 2013 he received his Master of Environmental Assessment and a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from North Carolina State University.

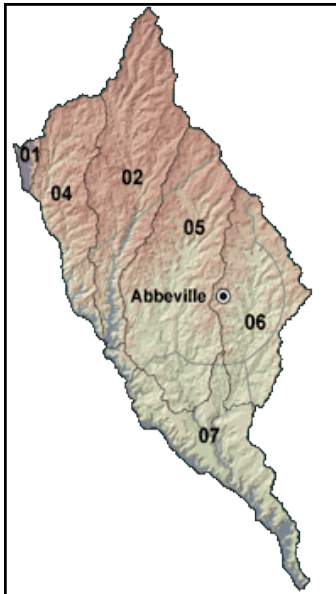
Matt is happily married to Jessica Brown who teaches at Westwood Elementary. They have 2 sons, Thomas James Wade Brown who recently turned 5 and 2 year old Hunter Matthew Robert Brown.

Matt enjoys fishing, hunting and any activity that gets him outside. He also enjoys the company of his family and friends.

Matt is a conservationist at heart and strives to see nature managed and preserved in a manner that will allow his sons and future generations to have the opportunity to enjoy and find the same pleasure he has found in being in the GREAT OUTDOORS.

The Watersheds of Abbeville County

By Matthew Brown



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01 Savannah River/Lake Hartwell
02 Rocky River/Lake Russell
04 Savannah River/Lake Russell
05 Little River
06 Long Cane Creek
07 Savannah River/Lake Thurmond

So what is a Watershed? A watershed is simply the area water flows through as it makes its way to a stream, river, or lake. A watershed is usually defined by the amount of drainage area and measured in acres or square miles. Watersheds can vary in size depending on the size of the body of water you are looking at. For instance, if you were looking at a portion of the Savannah River at the Richard B Russell Dam you would be talking Hundreds of Thousands of Acres across two states and a multitude of tributaries. Whereas, if you were examining one of the small streams feeding into Long Cane creek then you may only be talking a hundred acres or so. No matter how big or how small a watershed may be every land practice or action occurring in the drainage area can have a large impact either positive or negative on the quality of the watershed.

The majority of Abbeville County is found in the Upper Savannah river Watershed. The upper Savannah Watershed is defined by the Upper Savannah Basin. This basin or drainage area is 1,098,768 acres or 1715 square miles. This area encompasses multiple counties in Georgia (Columbia, Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Lincoln, and Wilkes Counties) and South Carolina (Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, and McCormick Counties) 352,660 acres or 32.1%

are located outside of South Carolina. The South Carolina portion of the upper Savannah River Basin consists of 55.3% forested land, 27.4% agricultural land, 9.3% urban land, 5.7% water, 1.7% forested wetland (swamp), and 0.6% barren land. There are approximately 3,365 stream miles and 83,241 acres of lake waters in this extended basin. Only the Northeast corner, of Abbeville County drains into the Saluda watershed. Abbeville County can then be broken down into four smaller watersheds. These are the Long Cane, Little River, Rocky River, and the Saluda River.

The Long Cane Creek watershed comprises approximately 121.5 square miles or 23 % of Abbeville County. Some of the creeks and streams that comprise this watershed are: McCord Creek, Pickens Creek, Norris Creek, Double Branch, and Candy Branch. Long Cane creek has its headwaters in the Donalds area and eventually drains into the Savannah River via J Strom Thurmond Reservoir in McCormick.

Little River is the county's largest watershed and comprises 260.5 square miles and drains approximately 50% of Abbeville County. Little River has its headwaters in the Southeastern Corner of Anderson county and drains in a Southwesterly direction and finally flows in Savannah river via the J Strom Thurmond Reservoir. Some of the feeder streams and creeks which flow into Little River are: McKinley, Shanklin, Penny, Calhoun (Connects with Little River in McCormick County), Chickasaw, Hogskin, Little Hogskin, Long Branch and Gill Creeks.

The Rocky River watershed encompasses the smallest of the Savannah River Watersheds in Abbeville County. Rocky River drains approximately 60 square miles or about 11 % of Abbeville County. Rocky River begins in Eastern Anderson County and flows into Abbeville where it was dammed to form Lake Secession. Upon discharge from the Lake Secession dam the Rocky River joins with Wilson Creek and flows into Richard B. Russell Reservoir.

The West and Southwest edge of Abbeville County is determined by the Reservoirs of the Savannah River. These lakes mainly Lake Russell and very small portion of Lake Thurmond directly drain about 41.3 square miles or 9 % of Abbeville County. Water from these areas flow either drain directly in these lakes or carried by smaller streams.

As mentioned earlier the Northeast corner of Abbeville County is contained in the Saluda Watershed. This area makes up about 36 square miles or 7% of the County. The creeks and streams in this area are Goose, Broadmouth and Little Creek. These three creeks either flow directly into the Saluda River or join others and before flowing into the Saluda River.

Abbeville County is a largely rural area and therefore a great deal of these watersheds area comprised of farmland. The conservation practices which are applied on each farm no matter if it is a livestock, row crop, or a tree farm operation can have a dramatic impact on the quality of the watershed. We have to remember there is no more water being produced and we must be good stewards of this precious resource. Practices such as Prescribed Grazing, Critical Area Planting, Forest Trails and Landings (Waterbars), and utilizing sound management practices when applied fertilizers and pesticides can all help to conserve and protect the quality of the watershed. However, watershed quality is not limited to agricultural producers. We must remember every action can have an effect on the quality of the watershed. Therefore, no matter if it's a residential lawn or a 300 acre timber tract we can all have a hand in protecting the watershed.

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ARBOR DAY

Annually the District provides trees and educational materials to Abbeville County schools wanting to do Arbor Day Programs with their classes. The District supports this program as a way to educate and promote *"A Greener Tomorrow"*.

South Carolina observes Arbor Day the first Friday in December. The best time of year to plant is while the trees are dormant for this will ensure a less stressed tree, easier transition into the warmer months and a lot less work for you as far as watering if you were to plant in Spring.

The District provided 25 trees to the following schools

Long Cane Primary
Cherokee Trail Elementary
Diamond Hill Elementary
Westwood Elementary
John C. Calhoun Elementary
Calhoun Falls Public Charter School

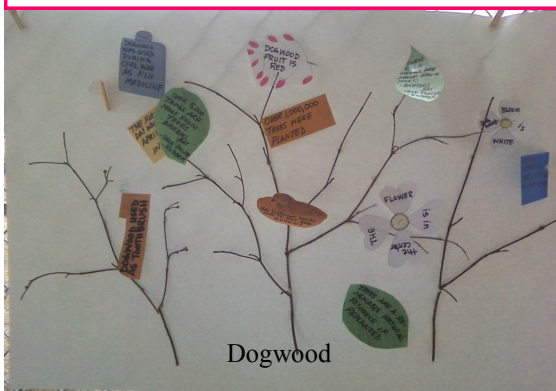
The planting of 25 trees absorbed 746 pounds of Carbon Dioxide this year!

Arbor Day December 6, 2013 Bridgett.barber@sc.usda.gov

864-459-5419 ext.3

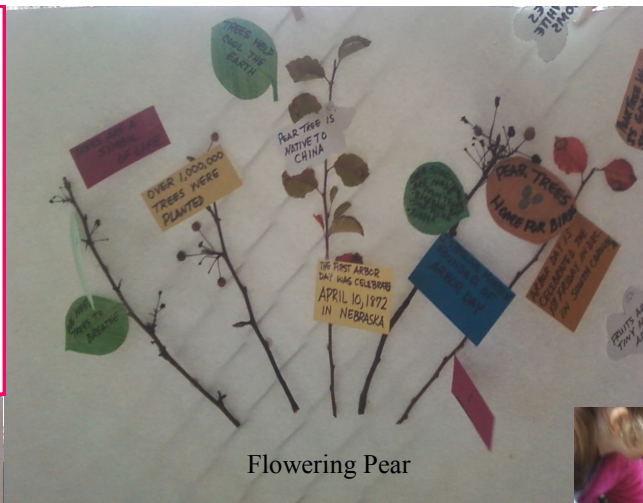
Cherokee Trail

First graders in Mrs. Smith's, Mrs. Patterson's and Mrs. Johnson's classes celebrated Arbor Day with a program about the history of Arbor Day, learned about trees as a renewable natural resource and were fascinated with fun facts about the trees they were planting. Dogwood trees and a Flowering Pear were planted around their playground.



Dogwood

Dogwood bark extract was used to treat fever & malaria.



Flowering Pear

Flutes and Clarinets are made from Pear wood.

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Patterson's students working together to get the job done.



Long Cane Primary

The Arbor Day Programs presented to second graders had them engaged in decorating red bud twigs with 16 interesting facts pertaining to the history of Arbor Day, trees as renewable natural resources and the special uses of the American Red Bud. The program concluded with the students planting 4 red bud trees in the playground area.

George Washington's favorite tree was the American Red Bud



John C. Calhoun K5

Butterfly bushes were planted to enhance the learning about butterflies.

Earth Team Volunteer Jackie Coxie digging the holes for the bushes to be planted



Cherokee Trail

Sixth and seventh grade students wrote reports about the various types of trees offered through the Abbeville Conservation District. They also included pictures of trees. The reports and pictures were on display in the classroom. The 7th graders planted the 4 Saw tooth oak trees along the school's walking track, in anticipation of future shade.

2013 Conservation Bulletin Board Projects

The Annual Conservation Bulletin/Poster Contest provides kindergarten through 5th grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art while still meeting the state teaching standards

"Where Does Your Water Shed?"

Abbeville County students grades k-5th who participated in the bulletin board project learned about where the rain goes once it hits the ground, how it depends on what it lands on and where the water will shed. For example if it hits a roof, it might go into a gutter and then down a downspout into a grassed lawn. If it hits a parking lot, it can't soak in so it travels to the lowest point until it reaches an area that it may travel to a retention pond or grass area. If it lands on the soil, it will soak into the ground and travel to the groundwater aquifer. But if it lands on bare ground - then it might cause erosion depending on the amount of rain. Students gained the knowledge of which watershed they live in and that we all live in a watershed.

Students were asked what watershed they live in • Why water is important? • How do you use water in your everyday life? • What threatens our water supply and quality? • How can you, your family and your community keep our watershed healthy?

The Conservation District awarded each participating class with an ice cream party and \$25.00.

2014 Bulletin Board Theme "Dig Deeper- Mysteries in the Soil"

Explore Nature- Find a tree stump and read it as though you were reading a book. Write down your discoveries

Watershed Resources

Find what watershed you are in

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

Know Your Watershed

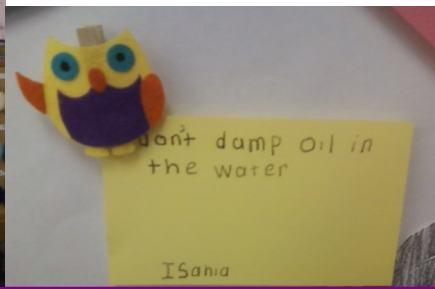
<http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/Know%20Your%20Watershed/>

USDA-NRCS – Water Page – Water landscape interactive

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/water>



Cherokee Trail-Grade 1
Mrs. Nora Johnson's class are much wiser about Watersheds



John C Calhoun -K5 "Kindergarten Cares About Our Watershed"

Mrs. Crawford's class astonished District Coordinator Bridgett Barber with the knowledge they gained by learning about our watershed. Students knew that they lived in the Savannah Watershed, what a watershed was and how to keep our watershed clean.





Cherokee Trail Grade 1

Mrs. Lynn Patterson's class had fun learning about watersheds. Mrs. Patterson was amazed at how much she learned about watersheds herself. She thanked the District for having the bulletin board project each year. *"It gives us an opportunity to learn about things that we may not normally think of to teach to first graders"*

S-O-I-L
not just another 4
letter word
[http://
soils.usda.gov/
education](http://soils.usda.gov/education)

Cherokee Trail Grade 4

Mrs. Jennifer Hines's students explored *Watershed Wonders (not pictured)* The bulletin board was a three dimensional mural of the local watershed at the lake complete with runoff. Students wrote signs with rules/do's and don'ts about the watershed



Diamond Hill Grade 4

Mrs. Suzie Sherard's students used the watershed information as a part of their unit on weather and the water cycle. One of the vocabulary words they learned was **runoff**, Mrs. Sherard incorporated that word with the understanding and concept of watersheds and protecting them. Mrs. Sherard expressed that the students really enjoyed doing the research. (picture left)



2014

Soil is an amazing substance. A complex mix of minerals, air, and water, soil also teams with countless micro-organisms, and the decaying remains of once-living things. Soil is made of life and soil makes life. To the farmer, soil is where crops grow. To the engineer, soil is a foundation upon which to build. To the ecologist, soil supports communities of living things. To the archaeologist, soil holds clues to past cultures. To the city dweller, soil nurtures grass and gardens. To the soil scientist, soil is all of these things. Soil has been called "the skin of the earth" because it is the thin outermost layer of the Earth's crust.

Like our own skin, we can't live without soil.

Source: Soil Science Society of America

Come join in for an adventure digging deeper and discovering the mysteries in the soil...



Cherokee Trail Grade 5

Mrs. Joyce Culbreth's students focus was how they can keep pollution out of the Savannah Watershed

The Poster/Bulletin Board Contest is open to any **K-5th grade class** in Abbeville County. Bulletin board projects are a class effort and should include work of all students in the class. School groups such as science clubs, environmental clubs, or other after school programs are welcome to participate. There is no restriction on size of bulletin board.

The Conservation District will award each teacher with **\$25.00** for participation and each class with an ice cream party.

Deadline: Any time during school year prior to **May 24, 2014**

All participating classes should contact Bridgett Barber—864-459-5419 bridgett.barber@sc.usda.gov

Woodland Clinic

The Conservation District has been a sponsor of the Annual Woodland Clinic for over 25 years. The clinic was held on April 23 at (Connie Maxwell) Oasis Farm in Greenwood. The Woodland Clinic is a forestry competition and career day where students from area high schools interact with foresters and natural resource professionals. Seventeen teams competed including *Calhoun Falls Charter School* and *Dixie High School*; the students competed in four events including tree and forest pest identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, and tool identification. The competition ends with a lumberjack race where the students compete as a team using crosscut saws, bow saws, and roll and carry logs using peaveys and log carriers. **Dixie High School was the overall winner with the highest scores in each category with the team collecting \$700.00 in prize money. Calhoun Falls Charter School took home the plaque for the famous lumberjack race.**

Comments from teachers and students about the clinic

"I love bringing my students to the Woodland clinic. It is well organized, safe, challenging, and the kids really enjoy using their knowledge in real world situations-The only cost to us is time, and the time is well spent" Calvert Sherard Dixie High School Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor

"This was my second year to attend. I appreciate the willingness of professionals to help in training the team. Students enjoy a chance to use what they have learned in the classroom in a hands on real life setting. Students are ready to go back again, and the ones who attended are motivated to do better next year." Nancy McCannon Calhoun Falls Charter School Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor

"I enjoyed the Woodlands Clinic because it was a fun trip. I had tons of fun competing against other people, meeting new people, and I actually learned a few things about forestry that I didn't know before. I'm glad I went because I had a great time and the people were nice and the food was delicious!" Brook McGaha Dixie High School student

"I enjoyed the Woodland Clinic because of the learning experience it gave me and in a way made me think I would be a good forester" Kaleb Smith Dixie High School student

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Call 1-800-678-7227 or visit www.scwildlife.com

SC Envirothon Competition

Students from across the state prepared for many months for the SC Envirothon competition that was held recently at the Sandhills Research and Education Center near Columbia. Eighteen teams from across the state participated in this year's Envirothon with Spartanburg High School Team A taking First Place with the top combined score. Spartanburg A also took home top honors in four of the five topic areas and in the Orals Presentation. Each student on the First Place team will receive a \$500 college scholarship. Spartanburg Day School Team A won second place and those students will receive a \$250 college scholarship. Third place honors were captured by Dorman High School, with each student receiving a \$125 scholarship.

Held outdoors, the Envirothon is a dynamic environmental competition for high school students which cultivates a passion for environmental science and conservation policy by testing in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a topic that varies from year to year. The 2013 concentration was Rangeland Management. The Abbeville Conservation District sponsored **Dixie High School Team that included Anna Nelson, Demecia Martin, Mark Konopadchenko and Tyler Herndon**



2013 Youth Photography Contest

What better way to capture Abbeville's native wildlife, habitats, rural life and landscapes than through the lens of a camera. Contests provide an excellent opportunity for students to enjoy healthy competition while learning about natural resources and the need for conservation in Abbeville County.

Abbeville County students grades 6-12 were offered a photography contest. The contest consisted of 2 categories; *Native Wildlife & Habitats* and *Rural Life & Landscapes* with two divisions— *High School* and *Middle School*. The photos were judged by Abbeville Conservation District Commissioners Ken Tinsley and Jim Irwin, Mayor Lee Logan of Due West, Mayor Sarah Sherwood of Abbeville. Photos were judged on the effectiveness of representing the theme of the category, composition and originality. 73 photo entries were submitted to be judged. \$1,000.00 was awarded to winners.

High School Division

Native Wildlife & Habitats

First place –“You Can't See Me” Darryl Anderson AHS 12th grade
Second place –“I'm Too Sexy for this Tree” Cheyanne Tiller CFCS gr.9
Third place “I See You” -Shaley Rice AHS gr 11
Best title – “Charlotte's Rainbow Web” David Weichman- AHS gr 11

Rural Life/Landscapes

First place “Peek- a- Boo” Dawnyel Walker Dixie gr. 11
Second place “Fall is Beautiful” Dustin Kent Dixie gr.12
Third place “Blow Wind Blow” Zane Coursey AHS gr 12
Best title “Mossy Oak” –Steven Hedden AHS 11th gr

Middle School Division

Native Wildlife & Habitats

First Place- “SAFE” Brooklyn Matthews Cherokee Trail gr.7
Second Place- “Early Morning Sunrise with a Black Coyote” Evan Hughes WMS gr.8
Third Place- “Bubbling” Vera Konopadchenko Cherokee Trail gr.6
Best Title- “The Lookout” Alec Laudenbacher Cherokee Trail gr.6

Rural Life & Landscapes

First Place “Rustic Rake” Jonathon Leslie Homeschooled gr. 6
Second Place “Beautiful Tree” Katie Turner Cherokee Trail gr.7
Third Place “Wind Power” Parker Hannah Cherokee Trail gr.6
Best Title “Fire in the Falls” Zach Garner Cherokee Trail gr.6



*Rural Life/Landscapes
First place “Peek- a- Boo”
Dawnyel Walker Dixie gr. 11*

2014 Youth Photography Contest

Entries must be received by

March 14, 2014

Contact Bridgett Barber

**Guidelines & Rules 864-459-5419 x3
bridgett.barber@sc.usda.gov**

David Lucas, Editor of the *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine has notified us that DNR is embarking on a new promotion to teachers, librarians or other employees of K-12 schools (public, private or charter) that will offer annual subscriptions for educational use at a discounted rate of \$8

Contact Bridgett Barber
bridgett.barber@sc.usda.gov
459-5419x3

2014 Youth Photography Contest Calendars \$10.00

Contact Bridgett Barber

864-459-5419x3

Bridgett.barber@sc.usda.gov

Community & Conservation

Abbeville Conservation District is helping to address natural resource issues across the county.

These include soil interpretation - protection, urban erosion and sediment control, tree planting and management, invasive species management, storm water management, small acreage farming and more.

STEWARDSHIP

In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. It is one of the world's largest conservation related observances.

The program relies on locally-led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities. Districts provide conservation and stewardship field days, programs, workshops and additional outreach efforts throughout their community to educate citizens about the need to care for our resources. Our district activities extend beyond the one week observance to include an entire year of outreach.

The Stewardship concept involves personal and social responsibility, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations. Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve Abbeville County.

If your garden club, church or organization is interested in observing "Stewardship Week"

Contact

Bridgett Barber

864-459-5419x3

Bridgett.barber@sc.usda.gov

2013 SC Teachers Tour:EDUC-678-K60

The Abbeville Conservation District gladly sponsored Renee Brooks from Diamond Hill Elementary School and Amanda Ferguson from Westwood Elementary School for the Annual Teachers Tour which enabled them to receive 3-hour, non degree graduate credits. Teachers examined sustainable forestry practices and viewed practical S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). This outdoor environmental education course is designed to provide an unbiased look into the impact forests have on our state's environment, economy, and quality of life. Course topics included Forest management, wildlife conservation, forest product production. Tours of private & public forestlands, lumber, paper, engineered wood and other wood product mills. All meals, lodging, materials and transportation during the tour are provided free. ***For the 2014 Tour information please contact Bridgett. Barber @sc.usda.gov or 459-5419 x3***



CoCoRaHS

"Rain doesn't fall the same on all"

When rain or other precipitation falls across the Palmetto State (or when it doesn't), a dedicated network of volunteers provides observations about what's happening in their own backyards that give State Climatology Office staff a more accurate picture of prevailing conditions than simply relying on what's provided by official government monitoring stations. These citizen-scientists are part of the "CoCoRaHS" network, which stands for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network. Precipitation is highly variable and requires a large number of gauges across every county for accurate measurement. Isolated summer thundershowers, for instance, can pass between widely-spaced official monitoring stations without any recorded measurement. **If you are interested in providing daily precipitation measurements that will help fill in a piece of the climate puzzle that affects all South Carolinians, contact Bridgett Barber 459-5419x3**

The Abbeville Conservation District would like to thank the following volunteers for their dedicated service !

Visit www.cocorahs.org/

Susie New
Jenny O'Quinn

Abbeville 3.2 SSW Station # SC AB 2
Due West 5.6 WSW Station # SC AB 5
Due West 0.6 SE Station #- SC-AB-3

Cass Pressly

Honea Path 5.0 SSW Station # SC-AB-6
Abbeville 2.5 ESE Station # SC-AB-7
Due West 2.5 S Station # SC-AB-4

Bill Rogers
Mike Fleming

Rogers Rd./Hwy 71
Hwy 28- Antreville area

Equipment Rental

Truax Flex II Seed Drill- Brillion Seeder 2-Tye No Till Drills
Abbeville Conservation District
864-459-5419 ext.3

Dixie FFA Highlights **Ashton Lee, Dixie FFA Vice President**

This past year our FFA chapter has achieved several things, whether it be on the state or district level.

We had a soil and land evaluation team. The members included Ashton Lee, Jeanah Gillespie, Alex Powell, and Sam Elsner. The team qualified for the state competition and Jeanah Gillespie won first place individual in the piedmont district to secure the Abbeville County Soil and Water Conservation Convention Scholarship.

We also had students go to the Woodlands Clinic at Connie Maxwell's Oasis Farm in Greenwood. Our team came in first place and we also had the top three individuals. Mark Konopadchenko won first, Kaleb Smith won second, and Jessica Singleton won third.

Our tool ID team consisted of Jacob Powell, Alex Young, Michael Lewis, and RJ Risner. Together they were the Piedmont region champions and qualified for the state competition.

We sent a team to the wildlife CDE consisting of Alex Davenport, Quintin Hilley, Heather Timmerman, and Tyler Herndon placing 4th out of 32 teams.

Dixie also attended the state convention. There we had the 3rd place team out of 28 in the Meats ID CDE. The team consisted of Andrew Robison, Alyssa Ashley, RJ Risner, and Anna Nelson.

We also had 5 students compete in the state's Agriscience fair CDE. These students spent time on a project and then competed against others in their category. Out of the 5 competing, Andrew Robison, won first place in his category and division.

Our chapter was proud to have had two people receive their FFA State Degrees while at the state convention. This is the third highest degree that can be earned in FFA. The recipients from Dixie were Brittany Kay and Kaleb Smith. Dixie also received the bronze national chapter award and the States 100 percent membership award.

We also had two students receive scholarships. Anna Nelson received the Aaron Powell Memorial FFA scholarship. Heather Timmerman received the H.O. Mullinax scholarship.

The Dixie FFA chapter has had a very productive year, gaining classroom knowledge and applying to real World situations of Competitions and Community Service. You win some, you lose some, but we always have fun learning, bringing home awards is just icing on the cake.



Dixie FFA members RJ Risner, Alyssa Ashley, and Heather Timmerman spend a summer morning filling a tractor trailer with used clothing for shipment at the Upstate "Helping Hands," in Central, SC, as part of their State Convention activities

SOILS 101

This video series is called Soils 101. There are fifteen videos in the series featuring some of your favorite SC Soil Scientists. The videos include topics such as, "Soil Physical Properties", "Soil Biology", "Soils for Conservationists", "Soil Survey", and "Soils for Homeowners". These videos benefit anyone with an interest in soils.

The videos can be viewed at the following website <http://vimeo.com/channels/soils101/videos>.

Calhoun Falls FFA Highlights

During The school year, we completed in many CDE's, soils, tractor driving, tool ID, dairy foods, poultry and green hand quiz bowl. We also competed at the woodland's clinic and won the lumberjack section.

Community service is a big part of our chapter. In September we were a part of National Public Lands Day as well as helping with the local food pantry.

We presented 2 programs at JCCES, Arbor Day and Pioneer Day, reaching over 75 students.

We attended Legislative Day in the state capital and met our representative Dr. Craig Gagnon.

We are a National Two Star Chapter and a state gold emblem chapter.

Over the summer, our FFA Chapter participated in many events.

We attended state convention, where we received recognition for being a gold emblem chapter, and also having 100%+ membership. Erin Manning sang on stage during one of the sessions.

Members also attended Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) and met some awesome people from around the country! We created Living to Serve (LTS) plans, and don't be surprised if you're asked to help out with one! Our LTS plans that were created involve Stopping Abuse, Ending Hunger, and Putting a Stop to Bullying!!!

We attended FFA Camp at Cherry Grove beach to finish off our summer activities! While there, we attended awesome workshops held by our SC State FFA Officers! We also enjoyed going to the beach, kayaking in the ocean, and many team building activities! We enjoyed the night-life

Abbeville Conservation District
394 Highway 28 Bypass
Abbeville, SC 29620

Affiliate Members

Silver

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Love
Commercial Bank of Donalds
Mr. Paul Agnew
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas G. Kelly
Mrs. Mary C. Turner
Ronnie & Vicki Ashley
Mr. Danny E. Botts
Jimmy & Janis Sanders
Johnny W. Simpson
Ralph & Lynn Patterson

H.O.Mullinax Scholarship

Michael F. Mullinax
Mrs. Katie Lee Mullinax
Mark Petrancosta
Judith Brown
Harris Funeral Home-Brad Evans
Tessier Dairy-Dale Tessier
Bar E Enterprises- Eric McCall

Gold

Town of Due West
Susie K. New
Charles & Barbara Sumner
Mr. & Mrs. Barney Gambrell
Fred & Faye Raines
Dr. Walt McPhail-McPhail
Animal Hospital
Flexible Technologies
Sage Automotive Interiors –
Abbeville & Sharon Plants
Calvert & Susie Sherard
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Hester
Abbeville Co. Farm Bureau
Henry E. Green
Thompson Forest Consultants
John & Flo LeRoy

Platinum

Michael F. Mullinax
Mrs. Katie Lee Mullinax
Little River Electric
West Carolina Tel
Rodger's Well Drilling
Wayne & Kim Gens
Due West Supply
Tiller Backhoe & Dozer Services
The Abbeville Press & Banner
Ken & Marion Tinsley
Ag South-Chris Kirkland
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Keaton
Donalds-Due West Water Authority
Burnstein von Seelen Corp.
D&D Tree Service-David Campbell
Chandler-Jackson Funeral Home
McAllister & Sons

Annual Report

The Abbeville Conservation District Board of Commissioners meet at 8:00 am on the third Wednesday of every month at The USDA Service Center. The public is invited to attend.

USDA-NRCS
District Conservationist
Frank Love
Soil Conservationist
Heather Coleman
Soil Technician
Matt Brown
District Coordinator
Bridgett Barber

Commissioners
Chairman Stan Keaton
Vice Chairman Susie K. New
Treasurer Fred L. Raines
Commissioner Ken Tinsley
Commissioner Jim Irwin

Associate Commissioner
Sam Gilliam
Calvert Sherard
Barry Edmunds
Mark Sumner
Nancy McCannon